

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

July 12, 2023

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble-excused
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews-excused
Justin Chenette
Donna Ring

County Manager Gregory Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

07-12-2023 **ITEM**

- 1** **PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
None

- 2** **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
 - a. Commissioners' special meeting of June 21, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

- 3** **TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
 - a. Warrants to be approved on June 14, 2023 in the amount of \$509,195.68
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
 - b. Warrants to be approved on June 21, 2023 in the amount of \$782,455.41
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
 - c. Warrants to be approved on June 28, 2023 in the amount of \$350,376.99
Commissioner Clark. Ring seconded. Vote 3-0.
 - d. Warrants to be approved on July 05, 2023 in the amount of \$782,935.22
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ring shared that she had read an article recently in the newspaper about the ten most favorite places in Maine and that four were in York County.

5 NEW BUSINESS

*****Waited to hear until the end of new business in the event appellant arrived*****

a. MacDougal v. Town of Buxton Tax Abatement Denial Appeal Hearing- County Manager Zinser explained that the Commissioners can vote to hold on another day or vote to deny the Appeal.

Commissioner Chenette stated that he was open to extend and see if they arrived at an equitable conclusion. Commissioner Ring added that she feels badly denying it but that she does have questions of the appellant and that they can go to Superior Court.

Commissioner Clark commented that he was prepared to move forward but nobody was here.

Commissioner Clark moved to deny the tax abatement denial appeal of Mr. MacDougal. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

b. To review and seek approval of District Attorney's Rental Space agreement County Manager Zinser reviewed the Agreement with the Commissioners and explained that it was to rent a very small room in the new courthouse. The annual cost of the lease is \$4,255.08 for a 425.5 sq. ft. room in the new courthouse. He added that the District Attorney is hopeful that the Commissioners will approve and sign.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked if this is common practice? County Manager Zinser replied that we did have one agreement with Biddeford that we had to pay rent for.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the lease between the State of Maine and County of York at a cost of \$4,255.08. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Chenette asked if this is for a 10-year lease?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes and that the rate stays the same.

Vote 3-0.

c. To review and seek approval of Contract Deputy Agreement for the town of Arundel.

County Manager Zinser explained that this is a standard contract that the Commissioners see every year. He added that there are no major changes and this contract has already been approved by the Town of Arundel.

He added that other towns have their contracts and he hopes by August to have them returned.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the Contract for two deputies for the Town of Arundel. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

d. To seek approval from Commissioners on FY24 tax commitment

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the tax commitment as approved by the budget committee with a late payment charge of 8%.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

e. H.R. Director Corliss to seek approval of hiring/transfers of the following:

i. Hannah Neer in the position of Reserve Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Hannah Neer in the position of Reserve Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's office with a start date of July 3, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

- ii. Allison Milliard in the position of Reserve Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Allison Milliard in the position of Reserve Corrections Officer with a start date of July 3, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
- iii. Shelley Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Shelley Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's office with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked about these new hires being related. She asked is there not a policy on working and being related and working in the same department. She added that then when there are any issues in the family, they are all out at the same time. This is a concern that we have had in the past, she stated.

H.R. Director Corliss explained they were looking to relocate and have family in Lyman and the new hire is the daughter of a former employee of the jail. She and her husband have both worked shift work in the past. We did look at the policy and it is allowable but not recommended, stated H.R. Director Corliss. There is also the employment of relatives in the county policy. If there is an issue, one must resign and if not, we will choose. We had them sign an acknowledgement.

Commissioner Ring responded that she is okay if they have signed an agreement. Sheriff King stated he is comfortable with these hirings.

Commissioner Chenette asked if they will be working different shifts?

H.R. Director Corliss replied not for training, but once completed their training, they will start out on different shifts. Overtime may result in them working the same shift.

Commissioner Clark stated that he shares the same concerns as Commissioner Ring and is not happy about this but will vote yes. Vote 3-0.

- iv. Rene Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023.
Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Rene Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
- v. Jacob Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2022
Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Jacob Melendez in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the York County Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of July 10, 2023. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

H.R. Director Corliss informed all that with these new hires there are currently 47 full-time corrections officers.

- vi. Nathaniel Melvin in the position of full-time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Nathaniel Melvin in the position of full-time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring asked if this position is class 5 in the (MSEA) union? H.R. Director Corliss responded, yes. Vote 3-0.

- vii. Lauri Winter in the position of full-time Trial Manager in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Lauri Winter in the position of full-time Trial Manager in the D.A.'s office with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.
Vote 3-0.
- viii. Christina Hotaling in the position of full-time Finance Generalist in the Finance Department with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Christina Hotaling in the position of full-time Finance Generalist in the Finance Department with an effective date of hire of July 24, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
- ix. Michaela Susbury in the position of full-time Victim Witness Advocate in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of July 31, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Michaela Susbury in the position of full-time Victim Witness Advocate in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of hire of July 31, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.
- x. Christopher Mowatt transfer from the York County Sheriff's Office/Corrections to the position of full-time Legal Secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of transfer of July 24, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Christopher Mowatt from the York County Sheriff's Office to the position of full-time legal secretary in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of transfer of July 24, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.
DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked how does this transfer work with the pay scale. H.R. Director Corliss explained that the MSEA pay scale B, grade 5 would apply to him. He does not transfer over with the rate of pay as a corrections officer. Vote 3-0.
- xi. Astrid Marshall transfer from the Registry of Deeds Office to the position of full-time Restitution Clerk in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of transfer of July 24, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Astrid Marshall from the Registry of Deeds to the position of full-time Restitution Clerk in the District Attorney's Office with an effective date of transfer of July 24, 2023. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Clark asked H.R. Director Corliss what does she attribute the improvement in hiring?

H.R. Director Corliss responded that they have been working pretty hard. Some are recent graduates. We are attending the job fairs and highlighting the benefits (retirement, health benefits, etc.). She added that she is hoping to have another 15 people for the October academy.

Commissioner Clark thanked H.R. Director Corliss for her efforts.

County Manager Zinser explained that there was a last-minute e-mail request from the Biddeford/Saco/OOB Transit Authority asking for a letter of support for the next 5 years.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the letter and authorize the County Manager to sign. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

6 OLD BUSINESS

- a. To review and seek approval of Findings of Fact for Willey v. Town of Berwick Tax Abatement Denial Appeal Hearing

County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that they approved the appellant's request at a prior meeting.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve and sign the Findings of Facts. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Chenette asked about the dredge. County Manager Zinser replied that while he had received e-mails from some as to the cost of offloading of the dredge to be around \$17,000, he has had no communication from the City of Saco. He continued that his preference is to wait to hear from the City of Saco with the exact cost.

Commissioner Chenette asked have we communicated with them?

The County Manager responded that they should be aware but that he will send them an e-mail.

Commissioner Chenette asked if there was any update regarding our representation on the Dredge Authority. County Manager Zinser replied that he notified them that the Commissioners wanted to be on the Board and they replied they want someone who approves of the dredge.

Commissioner Chenette asked the County Manager had he received communications from the Dredge Authority members to have a meeting this week?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes, and that he has asked Kathy to schedule that. The meeting is in two weeks and we will have a conversation and fill them in on where we have ended. I will advise them to approach the Board.

County Manager Zinser added that the Commissioners' directive to him was to retain full ownership of the dredge and lease it to the Authority. You reserve the right to change your vote, he added.

Commissioner Chenette stated that a public discussion would be very helpful rather than back and forth e-mailing.

Commissioner Clark commented that no one has the right to direct this Board who they want on the Authority.

County Manager Zinser stated that we will have more of a comprehensive discussion at the August meeting.

7 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF

REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)
None

8 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)
None

9 ADJOURN
Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.